

DISABILITY ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fiscal Year 2004

The Disability Access Advisory Committee advises, educates and advocates on issues of accessibility to Town facilities and programs in consultation with Amherst Town government.

Committee members include Deb Waldron, Chairperson; Jean Smyser, DAAC's liaison to the Parking Commission; Eli Cooper, DAAC's liaison to the Transportation Committee; Pamela Ledoux, Madeline Peters, Neil Davidson, Rebecca Hurwitz; and Maura Plante, the Town staff liaison to the Committee.

The Committee has advised on problems, issues and concerns with crosswalks, curb cuts, handicapped parking, sidewalks, signage, snow removal and applications for variances. The Committee was successful in establishing a protocol for complaints stemming from residents and/or businesses not removing snow in a timely fashion. The Committee was consulted during planning and advised Town Meeting regarding the appropriation of a 1.2 million dollar bond for sidewalk renovations.

Several members attended an Architectural Access Board training to learn about building code enforcement, who must comply with the codes, under what conditions, and where to file complaints.

The Committee would like to increase its visibility in the community. Toward that end, a subcommittee was formed with the intention of creating a booklet entitled *Accessible Amherst*. Members will ascertain how accessible the following are: retail stores, municipal buildings, parks, restaurants and programs. The Committee looks forward to collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce to offer training sessions about equal rights.

The Disability Access Advisory Committee will continue to work with Town departments to explore ways to provide better access to any new building additions and other projects or programs planned for Amherst in the future.

Submitted by Deb Waldron